



ACT
Government

Environment, Planning and
Sustainable Development

Gungahlin Strategic Assessment

Annual Report 2018-2019

Annual report for the Gungahlin Strategic Assessment and Biodiversity Plan for the period
1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019

Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate, ACT Government

2019

Acknowledgements

The Plan Implementation Team would like to extend appreciation to the contributions made to the Annual Report by the Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate, the Suburban Land Agency and the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate.

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List of Abbreviations

ACT	Australian Capital Territory
CEMP	Construction Environment Management Plan (interchangeable with EMP)
CMTEDD	Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate
DA	Development Application
DoE	Department of the Environment and Energy (Commonwealth) formerly SEWPaC
ED	Economic Development (Part of CMTEDD)
EDP	Estate Development Plan
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EP Act	<i>Environment Protection Act 1997 (ACT)</i>
EPA	Environment Protection Authority
EPBC Act	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cwth)</i>
EPD	Environment and Planning Directorate (previously Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate)
EPSDD	Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (previously EPD)
LDA	Land Development Agency (under CMTEDD) (Active until 30 June 2017)
LMA	Land Management Agreement
MNES	Matters of National Environmental Significance
NC Act	<i>Nature Conservation Act 2014 (ACT)</i>
NCA	National Capital Authority
NCP	National Capital Plan
NSW	New South Wales
PALM Act	<i>Australian Capital Territory (Planning and Land Management) Act 1988 (Cwth)</i>
PD Act	<i>Planning and Development Act 2007 (ACT)</i>
PIT	Plan Implementation Team
SEWPaC	Commonwealth Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (now Commonwealth Department of the Environment and Energy)
SLA	Suburban Land Agency (Established from 1 July 2017)
TaMS	Territory and Municipal Services Directorate (now TCCS)
TCCS	Transport Canberra and City Services (formerly TAMS)
the Plan	Gungahlin Strategic Assessment Biodiversity Plan

Note: References to Department and Directorate names in the body of this report are accurate as at the end of the reporting period, 30 June 2017.

Executive summary

Plan Implementation Team chair person statement

The ACT Government continues to release land in the Gungahlin Strategic Assessment area, in accordance with the Gungahlin Strategic Assessment Biodiversity Plan (the Plan). As implementation of the project has progressed, membership and governance of the PIT has evolved to be more reliant on operational staff.

The ACT Government released 1245 residential dwellings, 12,467m² of mixed-use land and 51,429m² of community land in the Gungahlin Strategic Assessment area during the 2018-2019 financial year. In February 2019, the Taylor Stage 3 estate development plan (EDP) was approved for the creation of 430 single dwelling blocks and 4 multi-unit sites with a total yield of 478 dwellings.

Funding to manage an additional 120 hectares added to the north-western hills, ridges and buffers zone from the urban areas of Taylor and Jacka was secured in the 2016-17 ACT Government budget. Several research projects have been sponsored by the ACT Government, including the continued monitoring of superb parrot nesting and competitive interactions and translocation of striped legless lizards and golden sun moths. In addition, the ACT Government has invested over \$650,000 during the last financial year in offset management. These contributions and the employment of dedicated staff to implement offset management plans reflect the ACT Governments' commitment to and investment into the environment and biodiversity conservation.



Brett Phillips

Chair – Plan Implementation Team

Executive Group Manager

Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate

Background

In October 2012, the ACT and Commonwealth governments commenced a strategic assessment under Part 10 of the EPBC Act. The focus of the strategic assessment was to assess the potential impacts from development of the remaining identified green-field sites in Gungahlin, the northern-most district in the ACT, on MNES protected under the EPBC Act.

The Plan was endorsed on 20 June 2013 and the actions associated with the development were approved on 17 July 2013. As a result of the approval, the Plan has streamlined the development process by removing the need for site by site assessment of MNES.

The Plan outlines the activities required to complete the urban development of the Gungahlin district. Accordingly, the Plan is defined by the establishment and implementation of measures to effect urban development and biodiversity conservation within Gungahlin. The Plan is relevant to the following areas as they appear in the Territory Plan:

- Urban development areas of Kenny, Throsby, Moncrieff, Jacka (north), Taylor;
- Urban development areas (currently zoned Commercial (CZ2) and Mixed Use (CZ5)) in the Gungahlin Town Centre (east precinct); and
- Conservation areas, including broad acre areas, being additions to Goorooyaroo and Mulligans Flat Nature Reserve, Kenny Nature Reserve, Horse Park north broad acre, Kenny broad acre and Kinlyside Nature Reserve.

The assessment area and Plan in summary is presented as **Figure 1**.

Annual Reporting under the Plan

This annual report is a comprehensive report on the activities related to the Gungahlin Strategic Assessment throughout the preceding year, being 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019. The annual report provides information about ACT Government activities and performance against the commitments of the endorsed Plan.

Commitments

The Plan identifies a range of commitments to be undertaken by the ACT Government targeting MNES affected by urban development in Gungahlin on the basis of analysis presented in the Gungahlin Strategic Assessment - Assessment Report. Commitments in the Plan build upon the long history of forward and strategic environmental planning in the ACT around the avoidance and mitigation of environmental impacts resulting from development.

In summary, the commitments include:

- Avoidance of areas that support habitat for MNES on land presently designated by the Territory Plan as developable (including RZ1 – Suburban and NUZ1 - broadacre);
- Increased investment in habitat enhancement beyond the minimum level required by ACT legislation; and
- Increased investment in research targeted at the affected MNES and guided by action planning objectives.

Direct impacts on MNES have either been avoided (pink-tailed worm-lizard, superb parrot breeding sites, important migratory bird habitat) or minimised through protecting core, well connected

endangered woodland or habitat (box-gum woodland, golden sun moth or striped legless lizard habitat).

Plan Implementation Team

The PIT is responsible for both implementing the Plan and also ensuring that accurate records are maintained for all activities that are undertaken in relation to implementation of the Plan. PIT activities are described in the PIT Charter. Further information on the PIT is described in the relevant section of this report.

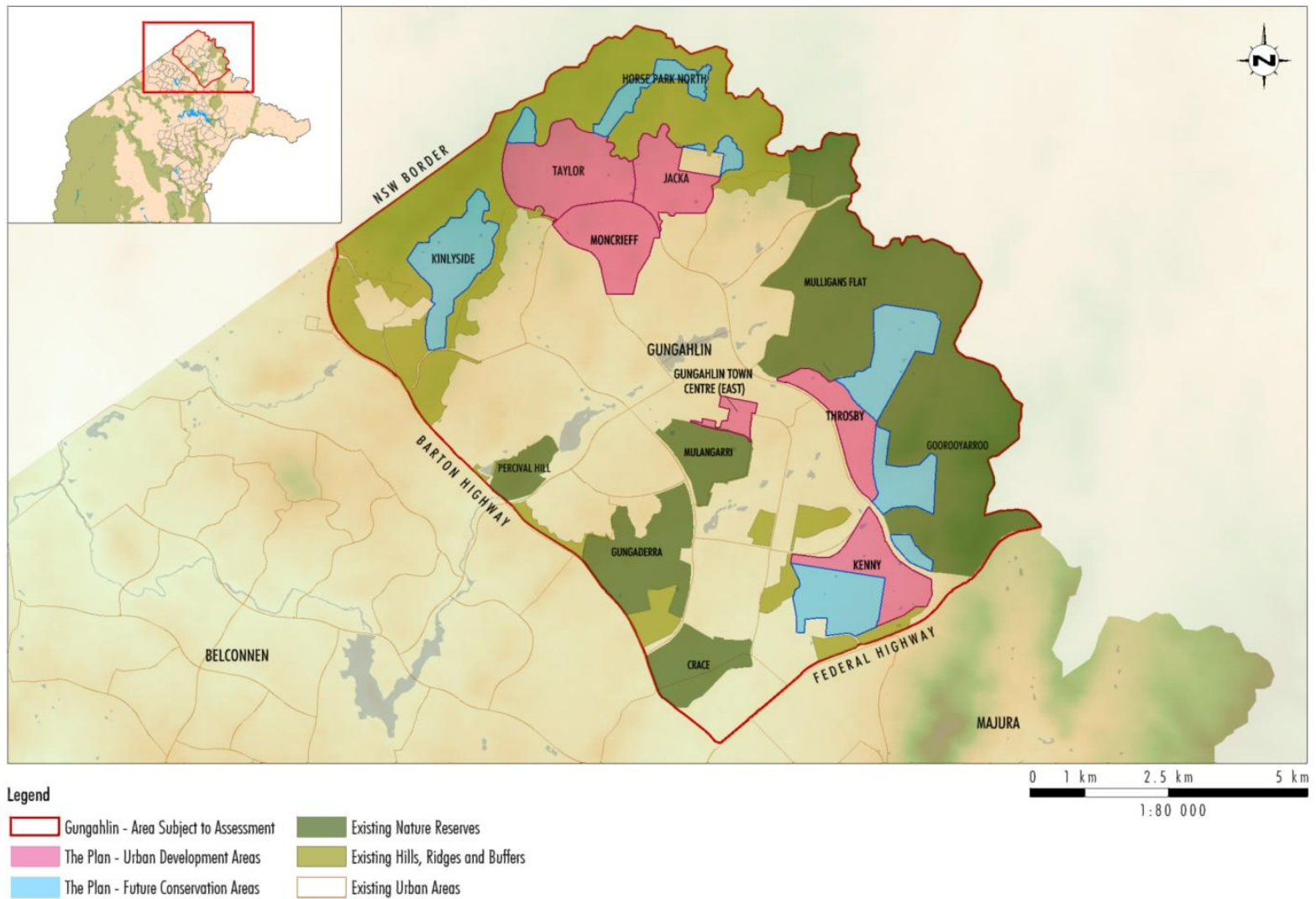


Figure 1 Overview of the Plan

Corporate outcome: Organisational effectiveness

The strategic assessment approvals monitoring and implementation is the responsibility of the PIT, which was coordinated by Impact Assessment and Business Improvement team within the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) during the 2018-19 financial year. Membership was established prior to the charter being finalised and as such the members were able to shape the charter to one that was operationally suitable to the ACT Government structure.

To ensure the PIT members are informed on matters for consideration, members of each Directorate have formed an informal working group to discuss issues and make recommendation to the PIT. This model has been well received by the PIT and the working group members and will continue.

Land Release Program

As reported in previous annual reports, each year the ACT Government prepares a four-year Indicative Land Release Program setting out the ACT Government's intended program of residential, commercial, industrial and community land releases. The Program is indicative and is subject to change as market conditions alter or as the ACT Government priorities adjust. The Planning, Land and Building Division of EPSDD is responsible for preparing the Program in conjunction with other relevant Territory Directorates.

The ACT Government plans for the supply and release of land, taking account of factors such as forecast population changes, household changes, demand for land and the capacity to cost effectively deliver key infrastructure and services.

The four year Indicative Land Release Program enables the ACT Government to deliver on its economic and social strategies for the Territory.

The 2019-20 to 2022-23 Indicative Land Release Program includes the following release targets for Gungahlin:

- 4,245 dwellings
- 52,527m² of mixed use site area
- 96,900m² of commercial site area
- 130,944 m² of community facility site area

More information about the Indicative Land Release Program is available on the following website:

https://www.planning.act.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0006/1370652/2019-Indicative-Land-Release-Program.pdf

The Indicative Land Release Program for 2018-19 to 2021-22 is available on the following website:

https://www.planning.act.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0008/1207295/Indicative-Land-Release-Program-2018-19.pdf

Kenny

Land release and development of Kenny has been delayed due to continuing forward planning and infrastructure investigations. Further work is being undertaken by EPSDD to determine the most suitable outcomes and development options for this suburb. The Territory Plan Variation to rezone land within the future suburb to formally establish the Kenny Nature Reserve has not been commenced due to the continuing planning and infrastructure investigations.

Jacka

The development application for a new residential estate within Jacka has progressed based upon a yield of 700 dwellings, community facilities areas, local shops, playing fields and open spaces.

Taylor

The Taylor estate has continued to be developed as per its development approval including a new school, playing fields, single residential dwellings, multi-unit sites, open spaces, community uses and a local centre.

Gungahlin Town Centre

The Gungahlin East project approved in 2017 finished civil construction in 2018-19 with releases of sites to developers and occupiers commencing in February 2019. The remaining commercial, community and residential sites will be sold in line with the indicative land release program.

Kinlyside

The Nature Reserve originally proposed for Kinlyside has increased in land area with areas targeted for restoration detailed in the [Kinlyside Offset Management Plan](#).

The area of land previously zoned residential has been included in the Territory Plan Variation for conversion to Hills, Ridges and Buffer Zone to be managed within existing rural leases. The Parks and Conservation Service will provide land management assistance where required, including direction on habitat protection and improvement as well as bush fire management and protection activities.

The Kinlyside Nature Reserve was created and gazetted through a Territory Plan Variation on 6 November 2014. The Nature Reserve includes a large section of land adjacent to Casey. Some areas will remain being managed for agricultural purposes due to their low conservation value and contribution to the successful farming requirements of the rural leases. The reserve will be managed under a conservation lease by the existing rural leasees.

Kinlyside Nature Reserve will be larger than the original proposed 201ha and include a greater opportunity to protect and enhance ecological values of the area, while allowing rural leasees to continue some agricultural activities such as stock grazing. Funding to assist in land management has been secured through the ACT Budget process.

The area subject to the variation is shown in Figure 2 below – noting the area converted to non-urban has increased from 201ha to 290ha and the nature reserve area has been created within this area.

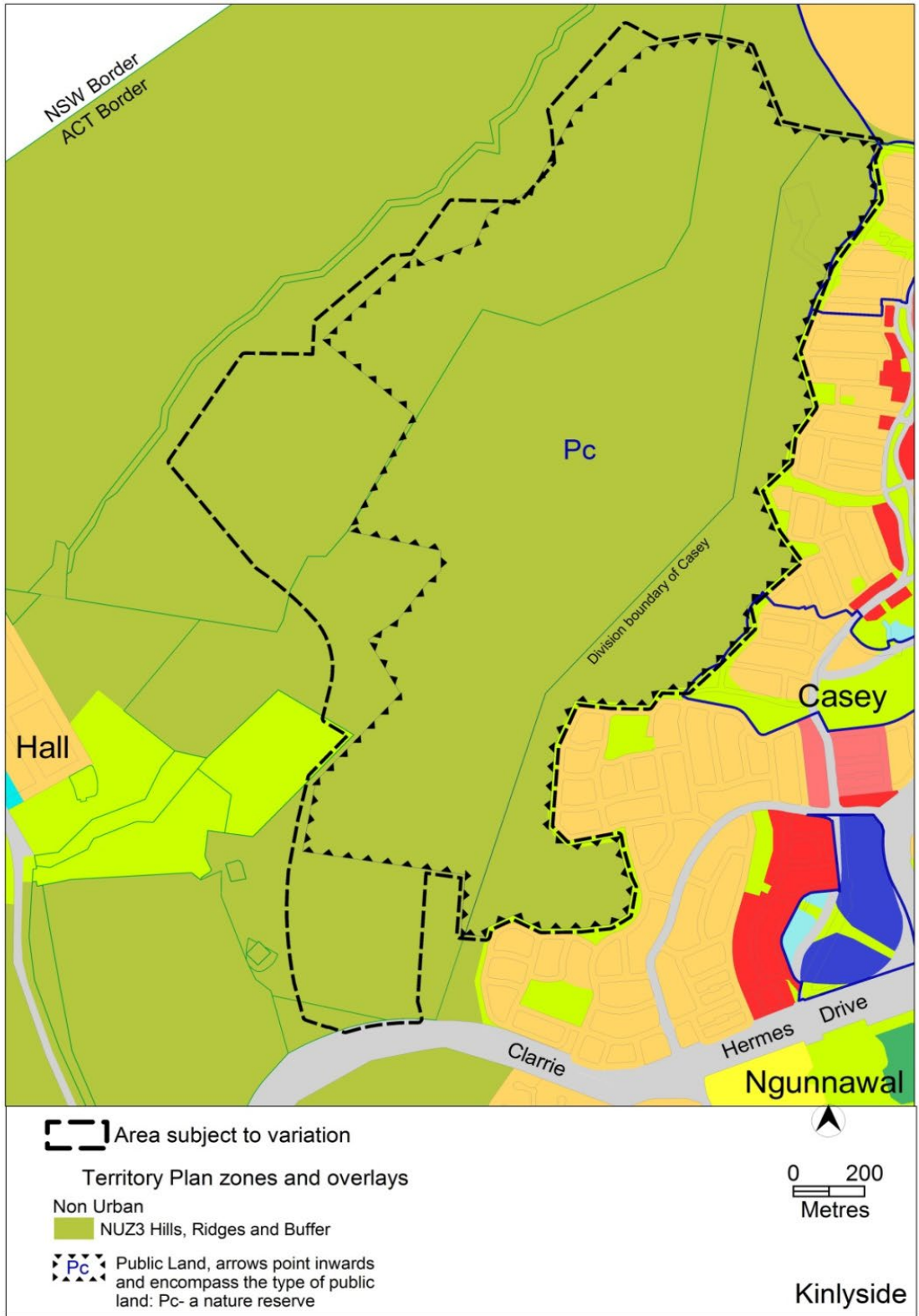


Figure 2 Kinlyside Territory Plan Map

Plan Implementation Team

Background

The PIT is responsible for all aspects of implementation of the Plan in addition to ensuring accurate records are maintained of all activities that are conducted in relation to implementation of the Plan.

Commitment 6 of the Plan describes the requirement of the ACT Government in establishing a PIT.

The PIT was established in 2014 and it was a multi-agency group drawn from executives within, EPD, CMTEDD and coordinated by ED, CMTEDD. However, from 1 July 2016 the responsibility for compliance monitoring and reporting vests in Planning Delivery, EPSDD.

The PIT membership was reviewed in response to the ACT Directorate restructure. The revised PIT membership and Charter was approved by DoE on 13 January 2017.

The PIT team will continue to be guided by input from relevant ACT agencies to ensure consistency and efficiency in implementation and investment (for example, coordination of weed management activities across reserve and offset areas).

The PIT will operate for the 20 year life of the Plan. Upon conclusion of the Plan, ongoing management responsibility will divest in the appropriate ACT Government agencies. The PIT will ensure the appropriate transfer and accessibility of information gathered over the life of the Plan. The PIT will operate with a mandate to ensure a whole-of-government approach to implementation of the Plan.

Membership

As at 30 June 2018 the PIT comprised:

- Planning Delivery, EPSDD (Lead Directorate);
- Parks and Conservation Service, EPSDD;
- Suburban Land Agency, EPSDD; and
- Treasury, CMTEDD.

Working groups

Internal working group

The Gungahlin Strategic Assessment working group comprises members from multiple divisions within EPSDD. The working group meets quarterly to discuss implementation and delivery of the commitments under the Plan.

Consultative groups

Several meetings were held with representatives from the Conservation Council since the Plan was approved.

During the 2018-2019 financial year, the Woodlands and Wetlands Trust (WWT) have been involved in consultations concerning the implementation of the Mulligans Flat and Goorooyarroo Nature

Reserves Offset Management Plan (for the Throsby North, Throsby East and Kenny Broadacre offset areas).

Governance of the Sanctuary includes employees of the Woodlands and Wetlands Trust, the Parks and Conservation Service, Conservation Research, EPSDD, and the Australian National University. Local experts may also be invited onto specific working groups. This group meets monthly and provides a forum for discussing the implementation of the offset management plan.

Report on performance by outcome/commitment

Table 2 describes the commitments from the Plan and the status of each commitment.

Item	Commitment	Responsibility (from 1 July 2018)	Comment	Timing and Date
1	Variation to the Territory Plan and amendment to the National Capital Plan for all proposed land use changes (including creation of Nature Reserves) in accordance with the Plan.	EPSDD/NCA	Timing for the establishment of nature reserves is linked to relevant development activities.	Completed on 7 November 2015 for all Nature Reserve areas except Kenny. Other land use changes have been and will continue to be uplifted after relevant estate development plans are approved.
2	Develop and submit to the Department of the Environment (DoE) for approval, the framework for investment in offsets, monitoring, reporting, adaptive management, compliance and enforcement. This will identify: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) indicative monitoring program for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. all MNES affected by the Plan; ii. newly created nature reserves; iii. Land Management Agreements for avoidance areas on NUZ3 – Hills Ridges and Buffers; b) reporting requirements and frequency for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. standard activities including monitoring, financial performance, measured outcomes; ii. reporting requirements for unanticipated or unapproved incidents. c) process for review, improvement, approval and incorporation of new procedures within an adaptive management framework; d) compliance and enforcement procedures associated with design, construction and operation phase activities. 	PIT	The framework for investment in offset management was approved by DoE on 2 November 2014. (DoE reference SA/20)	Complete.
3	Provide documented guidance on the development of concept plans to ensure appropriate land use planning for areas adjacent to MNES habitat and associated buffers for all urban development including specific consideration of the estate design/layout. This is inclusive of requirements for Asset Protection Zones (APZ) between the buffer zone and any residential development.	PIT	Concept plans or a similar planning documents (structure plans or planning and design frameworks) may not be required for all suburbs. Guidance documents have been prepared for Throsby, Taylor and Moncrieff. The PIT provided direct comment on the EDPs for Jacka to ensure all commitments were met. Guidance documents for Kenny will be prepared as required.	Ongoing. Prior to lodgement of EDP for each suburb. The specific timing will be determined as required by each development area. Discussions have been undertaken with the Commonwealth Department in regards to works within NUZ3 areas and APZs.
4	Review and update Land Management Agreements (LMA) or management plans for all avoided areas of NUZ3 – Hills, Ridges and Buffers to ensure consistency with, and application of commitments of the Plan. As a part of this action, baseline condition assessment of all avoided areas including NUZ3 will be undertaken and LMAs will include conditions for compliance and enforcement.	EPSDD	Difficulties have been encountered during the negotiations for review and update of LMAs between the ACT Government and rural lease holders. A more collaborative approach is required and other mechanisms will be investigated.	Negotiations for review and update of LMAs are continuing between PCS (EPSDD) and rural lease holders. Licences have been prepared under section 273 of the <i>Nature Conservation Act 2014</i> to enable rural lease holders to undertake various land management activities within Kinlyside Nature Reserve.
5	Implement cat containment policy in all urban development areas.	TCCS	In early 2019 Jacka, Moncrieff, Taylor, Throsby and Gungahlin Town Centre East commenced as cat containment areas.	Complete for all suburbs except Kenny which has not commenced. See DI2019-33
6	Establishment of the 'Plan Implementation Team' (PIT); and Submission of initial / indicative team membership and charter to DoE for approval.	Whole of ACT Government	Establishment of PIT within 3 months of Plan endorsement Submission of Charter to DoE within 12 months of Plan endorsement.	Complete. PIT established on 17 January 2014. Charter submitted to DoE on 5 May 2014. Amended Charter was approved by DoE on 13 January 2017.

Item	Commitment	Responsibility (from 1 July 2018)	Comment	Timing and Date
7	Establishment of a suitable mechanism to enable management of funds provided to the PIT for implementation of the Plan.	ACT Government	Funding to implement the actions as described in the Offset Management Plans was included in the 2016 ACT Government Budget.	Complete.
8	Develop and submit to DoE for approval a program of implementation of all of the commitments in the Plan.	PIT	The Program of Implementation was submitted on 11 May 2015. This is being negotiated and reviewed annually with the PIT.	Ongoing.
9	Develop a Reserve Management Plan for all new nature reserves in order to provide for adaptive management and condition improvement of the reserve in accordance with the objectives and commitments of the Plan.	EPSDD	The Kinlyside Nature Reserve and Offset Management Plan has been completed and is published on the ACT Environmental Offset Register .	Complete.
10	Develop amended Reserve Management Plans for existing reserves into which additional land is included as a result of the Plan in order to provide for adaptive management and condition improvement of the reserve in accordance with the objectives and commitments of the Plan.	EPSDD	The Mulligans Flat and Goorooyarroo Offset Management Plan is completed and was published on the ACT Environmental Offset Register in May 2016.	Complete.
11	Develop and submit to DoE for approval, the framework for CEMPs for areas directly or indirectly affecting MNES. This shall include the monitoring, reporting and compliance requirements of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> contractors undertaking physical works; and ACT Government officers or its representatives in auditing performance under the CEMP. 	PIT	Within 3 months of establishment of the PIT.	Completed on 20 December 2013
11a	Review and approve (subject to compliance with the Plan) CEMPs submitted for all new construction projects within the area subject to the Plan.	PIT	This is required to occur prior to the commencement of construction in areas identified for conservation in the Plan. A new CEMPs procedure has been implemented to improve efficiency and to ensure CEMP for greenfield developments in the GSA area are submitted and reviewed.	Ongoing.
12	Coordinate with TaMS – Asset Acceptance to ensure all obligations of contractors with respect to management of MNES in accordance with the Plan have been implemented prior to hand-over of assets to the Territory.	PIT	Prior to practical completion of each development contract. TCCS (formerly TaMS) will engage with the appropriate persons within their Directorate to ensure this requirement is achieved.	Ongoing.
13	Collection of baseline ecological information for all new reserve areas.	PIT	Baseline information was collated and used to inform the Habitat/Condition Improvement Plans and Offset Management Plans	Complete.
14	Ongoing collection of key ecological information for monitoring and reporting requirements.	EPSDD	Golden Sun Moth Results of GSM studies will be published on the EPSDD website for Environmental offsets.	The MNES monitoring schedule is outlined in the <i>MNES Ecological Monitoring and Research Plan</i> that is being finalised by ACT Government ecologists. GSM habitat mapping was undertaken at GSA offset sites in 2017. This information will be published on the Environmental Offsets webpage before the end of 2019. GSM population monitoring was conducted in 2018 at Kinlyside, Throsby North, and Throsby East and is continuing in 2019. GSM habitat condition monitoring was undertaken in all offsets in 2018, and is continuing in 2019 and 2020.

Item	Commitment	Responsibility (from 1 July 2018)	Comment	Timing and Date
			<p>Superb Parrot</p> <p>Superb parrot breeding was monitored at the Throsby East Offset Site by ACT Government and the Australian National University in Spring 2018.</p> <p>Ten (10) pairs of superb parrot attempted to nest on the offset site. In total, superb parrots (10 pairs) raised 39 young on the Throsby offset site in 2017. This represents a marginal increase in breeding output compared to baseline (2015).</p> <p>The average distance of superb parrot nest trees from the suburb boundary in 2018 was 841 m.</p>	<p>2015-16: Superb parrot monitoring completed (Sep 2015 – Feb 2016).</p> <p>2016-17: Superb parrot monitoring completed (Sep 2016 – Feb 2017).</p> <p>2017-18: Superb parrot monitoring completed (Sep 2017 – Feb 2018).</p> <p>2018-19: Superb parrot monitoring completed (Sep 2018 – Feb 2019).</p> <p>2019-20: Superb parrot monitoring to continue.</p> <p>Results will be published annually on the EPSDD offsets website.</p>
			<p>Box Gum Woodland</p> <p>Monitoring of BBW condition, floristics, and structure was undertaken at 43 plots across the GSA offset sites between October and December 2018. Results will be published online by the end of 2019.</p>	<p>BGW condition monitoring was undertaken in 2018, and is continuing in 2019 and 2020.</p>
			<p>Pink-tailed Worm-lizard</p> <p>The extent of potential low, moderate and high quality PTWL habitat was mapped within Kinlyside in November 2016. 25 ha of potential moderate and high quality PTWL habitat was described. Remapping of PTWL habitat will take place in 2024.</p> <p>Population monitoring will not take place until a less invasive method is established.</p> <p>Results of this study will be published on the EPSDD website.</p> <p>The PTWL is not a MNES with commitment targets in the Plan. Notwithstanding, data is being collected on the habitat of this species to inform land management planning and operations.</p>	<p>No mapping or monitoring of PTWL habitat was undertaken in 2018-2019.</p> <p>Remapping of the site for PTWL will be undertaken in 2024, in line with the <i>Managed MNES Ecological Monitoring and Research Plan</i>.</p>
15	<p>Any action that results in a breach of commitments of the Plan and adversely affects MNES values will be investigated and reported to DoE with identified recommendations for rectification, remediation or additional compensation.</p> <p>Remedial actions or additional compensation will be undertaken for controllable or avoidable actions which lead to a decline in MNES values with respect to the stated outcomes of the Plan.</p>	PIT	<p>A new procedure has been implemented in response to the Audit Report and internal review of procedures. The new procedures set out responsibilities and timeframes for reporting a potential breach; and investigation process.</p>	<p>Breaches will be investigated and the Commonwealth will be notified immediately.</p> <p>Investigation report to be finalised and submitted to DoE within 2 weeks of an incident coming to the attention of the PIT.</p> <p>No breaches were reported for 2018-2019.</p>
16	<p>Prepare and submit Annual Reports (n=20). Highlighting the implementation of the actions and relevant conservation outcomes for MNES. All reports, in addition to any research related to the Plan will be published on the internet in a central location.</p>	PIT	<p>This is the responsibility of the lead Directorate for the PIT. In accordance with the Plan the 2017-2018 Annual Report will form part of the Plan Review Report.</p>	<p>Ongoing. Every financial year (within 2 months of the end of the financial year). 30 August each year until 2033.</p>
17	<p>Prepare and submit Plan Review Report (n=5). The final Plan Review Report will include a summarised synthesis of all knowledge gained over the life of the Plan in order that it represent a complete description of actions taken under the Plan, requirements for ongoing management and opportunities for future enhancement beyond the life of the Plan.</p>	PIT	<p>Commonwealth granted an extension to submit the Plan Review Report to 30 September 2018. This allowed the finding of the audit report to be incorporated into the Plan Review Report. The extension also allowed for an analysis of the most recent and historical ecological records.</p>	<p>Every fourth year from endorsement of the Plan (within 6 months of the end of financial year) until 30 August 2033.</p>

Item	Commitment	Responsibility (from 1 July 2018)	Comment	Timing and Date
18	Engage a third party (outside of the PIT membership or working group) to undertake an annual audit of financial management under the Plan. Findings of the audit are to be included in the annual report.	PIT	To coincide with annual reporting. This will be undertaken by an officer from Treasury or EPSDD Finance.	30 August each year until 2033.
19	Engage a third party to undertake an Independent Audit of the Plan's implementation (n=4).	PIT	The independent audit of the Gungahlin Strategic Assessment was undertaken by the Office of the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment. Completed November 2017.	20 June 2023, 2028, 2033.
20	Creation of new nature reserves in Kinlyside, Gorooyaroo and Mulligans Flat.	EPSDD	This has been completed through a Territory Plan variation.	Complete. The variation to the Territory Plan has been completed. See NI2014-501
21	Creation of nature reserve in Kenny.	EPSDD	This will be undertaken prior to the commencement of construction in Kenny.	Not yet commenced. Will occur prior to the commencement of construction in Kenny. The ACT Government's Indicative land Release Program 2019-20 to 2022-23 proposes land release commencing in 2021-22.
22	Commence management of a nature reserve in Kenny (160 hectares). Created by the excision of rural Block 775 Gungahlin from future development potential.	EPSDD	As above. It is noted that the cadastre block identifier has changed to Block 820 Gungahlin.	Prior to commencement of construction in Kenny. Construction has not commenced.
23	Commence management of a nature reserve in Kinlyside (201 hectares) from the current extent of land in the RZ1 – Suburban zone under the Territory Plan in the location known as Kinlyside.	EPSDD	The nature reserve exceeds the stated 201 ha. The nature reserve is approximately 226 ha and the total area managed as an offset is 290 ha. The area is managed in accordance with the Kinlyside Offset Management Plan. This included negotiation of a services agreement with the existing leaseholder.	Complete. Management of Kinlyside Nature Reserve and offset area commenced in July 2015.
24	Commence management of additional 300 hectares to the Mulligan's Flat – Gorooyaroo nature reserve complex. Land to be excised from the future urban area of Throsby and the 'Kenny broad acre' area and managed for the protection of MNES.	EPSDD	Management of the extended Mulligans Flat and Gorooyaroo nature reserves commenced in July 2015. These areas are currently managed in accordance with the Canberra Nature Park Plan of Management 1999 (currently under review) and the Mulligans Flat and Gorooyaroo Reserves Offset Management Plan.	Complete. Management commenced in July 2015.
25	Commence management of additional 120 hectares to the north-western Hills, Ridges and Buffers zone from the urban areas of Taylor and Jacka in addition to the entire area of the north Horse Park broad acre area.	EPSDD	These sites have been under active PCS management since 2016/17.	Management of the values on these sites commenced in the 2016-17 financial period. Serrated Tussock control has continued at these 3 sites. Approximately \$45,000 was spent in 2018-19 financial year. Rural lease has been withdrawn over the Horse Park and Taylor avoidance areas, and grazing agistment licences have been prepared governing conservation grazing in this area.

Item	Commitment	Responsibility (from 1 July 2018)	Comment	Timing and Date
26	Improvement in the under-storey diversity of 104 hectares of box gum woodlands that presently do not meet the definition of the listed community. Areas subject to this action will include those that are presently in nature reserves in addition to areas that will become nature reserve as a result of implementing the Plan.	EPSDD in consultation with the PIT	This is described in the relevant Habitat Improvement Plan and is required to be completed within 20 years of endorsement of the Plan. The Habitat Improvement Plan will be reviewed in 2019/20 based on the updated BGW mapping undertaken in 2017. New restoration zones have been mapped for the offset sites, representing represent broad areas where smaller scale restoration projects will be planned.	Ongoing. Vegetation monitoring was completed between September and November 2016 with full details of the monitoring contained in the ACT Box - Gum Woodland Monitoring Report 2016. This report is published on the Environmental Offsets webpage. Follow-up monitoring of offset sites was undertaken in 2018 from October to December, with follow-up monitoring to occur in 2019 and 2020. Reports for this information will be published online as necessary.
27	Habitat improvement plans for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • box gum woodland (approx. 104 hectares of habitat) • golden sun moth (up to 140 hectares of habitat) • striped legless lizard (up to 111 hectares of habitat) • superb parrot 	EPSDD	All habitat improvement plans are completed.	Complete.
28	Fire hazard management strategies that include specific considerations for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • box gum woodland • golden sun moth • striped legless lizard • superb parrot 	EPSDD	These are being developed for each reserve as ecological considerations are provided in the Strategic Bushfire Management Plan (ACT Gov). Farm firewise management plans are in place for relevant rural leases, as part of the LMA process. A Fire Management Strategy for Throsby and Taylor was completed on 20 February 2018.	Ongoing. The Fire Management Strategy for Taylor 2 is the most recent submitted. A Fire Management Strategy for Taylor 3 will be prepared when the DA is approved.
29	Protect known superb parrot nesting trees including exclusion fencing of the interface between Throsby East Reserve and the future urban area to limit pedestrian access points.	EPSDD	The Throsby EDP was approved in April 2016 including exclusion fencing to ensure that development activity did not impact on superb parrot nesting trees. A concept plan for the extended Mulligans Flat Sanctuary considers access, interpretation, education and recreation opportunities that are consistent with managing the values of MNES. The extended sanctuary predator proof fence design takes into consideration of restricted pedestrian access points on the urban interface.	The Mulligans Flat Sanctuary Concept Plan was completed in 2016. The Commonwealth Government announced funding of \$600,000 for the Mulligan's Flat Woodland Sanctuary. Construction of the Mulligans Flat EcoTourism Centre started June 2019. The 12km Predator Proof Fence (PPF) for the Throsby boundary was constructed in 2018. Monitoring for the superb parrot was completed. Superb parrots were first detected at Throsby East on 21/09/2017. Bird surveys (monitoring) started on 27/09/2017. There was no indication that PPF construction impacted superb parrot breeding. The Goorooyaroo section of PPF was constructed in 2018.

Item	Commitment	Responsibility (from 1 July 2018)	Comment	Timing and Date
30	<p>Establish educational resources including signage and guidelines for residents of east Throsby, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Description of ecological values and significance of the Mulligan's Flat – Gorooyarroo nature reserve complex; • No domestic animals in reserves; • Management of pest species along the urban edge. 	EPSDD	<p>An interpretation strategy for the extended Mulligans Flat Sanctuary is being developed to identify priorities and opportunities for communicating the values of the Mulligans Flat and Gorooyarroo reserves.</p> <p>Temporary activities declaration signage in accordance with the <i>ACT Nature Conservation Act 2014</i> has been installed on the reserve boundary. The interpretation strategy will inform more formal signage designed for the urban edge.</p>	<p>The Mulligan's Flat Interpretation Strategy was completed in August 2016. Permanent signage will be designed and installed on the urban edge in 2019-20. A digital app will be developed and publically released in conjunction with the opening of the Learning Centre in 2020.</p>
31	<p>Commence planning for implementation of focused research on superb parrot habitat requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research focusing on nest site selection, nest site fidelity, fecundity, population dynamics and methods of reducing or eliminating nest hollow competition from aggressive native species or exotic pests such as common myna and European honeybee. • Assisted natural regeneration to facilitate future hollow formation will be undertaken in areas likely to be suitable as future nesting sites. • Removal of stock leading to a reduction in localised compaction and concentration of nutrients, improving long term tree survival. 	ESDD	<p>Superb parrot numbers, breeding behaviour, nesting attempts and productivity were monitored at Throsby East during the breeding season, from September 2018 to January 2019.</p> <p>More than 250,000 images from the 2015/2016 and 2016/2017 season have been analysed through the citizen science site Digivol and this work is ongoing. Evidence of egg destroyed by Starlings and predation of chicks in nest by Brown Goshawk and probably Kookaburra were collected. Width of hollow entrance and hollow insulation effectiveness seem important to breeding success.</p> <p>Grazing stock are being managed to prevent compaction and concentration of nutrients under nesting trees. Birds continue to breed and successfully raise chicks at a similar level (re pairs breeding and chicks raised as in 2015).</p> <p>Field measurements of superb parrot nesting sites (tree and hollow dimensions) were collected at Throsby East offset site and central Molonglo Valley.</p> <p>High nesting success displayed by superb parrots suggests that nest competition from other hollow-using fauna is not a threat that requires management intervention at this time. Competitor abundances and superb parrot nesting success should continue to be monitored at the site.</p> <p>Areas suitable as future nesting sites for superb parrots, where natural regeneration can be assisted, will be identified using Species Distribution Models (SDMs). A contractor has been engaged to complete this work, and the product will be available in 2019-2020.</p> <p>Research into superb parrot habitat selection, resource use and nest hollow competition continues.</p>	<p>Ongoing.</p> <p>2013-14: 20 June 2014</p> <p>2014-15: Planning / Underway</p> <p>2015-16: Research objectives met</p> <p>2016-17: Research objectives met</p> <p>2017-18: Research objectives met</p> <p>2018-19: Research objectives met</p> <p>2019-20: Research to continue</p>
32	<p>Research golden sun moth habitat requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • may include research into translocation of golden sun moths • fragmentation and proximity to urban areas 	EPSDD	<p>Addressed in the Habitat Improvement Plan for this MNES.</p> <p>Moth counts, pupae counts and vegetation condition monitoring at translocation and control plots was undertaken in November/December 2017 and 2018. Translocation sites checked in 2018 season and no evidence of further moth emergence or presence in area – so translocation success appears only to be short term in nature – will check site again in 2019 season.</p>	Ongoing.

Item	Commitment	Responsibility (from 1 July 2018)	Comment	Timing and Date
33	Undertake control programs of ruderal species.	EPSDD	PCS have engaged the services of the Canberra Indian Myna Action Group to assist with monitoring and management of Indian Myna's.	Ongoing.
34	Undertake salvage and relocation of structural habitat elements such as rocks and logs.	Contractors	<p>PCS has worked directly with the Throsby developers to stockpile woody debris, vertical stags (trees removed from the Throsby development) and rocks for habitat enhancement in the reserve. A total of approximately 1000 tonnes of woody debris was salvaged and relocated to the reserve.</p> <p>A total of three mature trees were removed and relocated to the reserve as potential future stags for proposed habitat enhancement.</p> <p>A total of approximately 500 tonnes of rock has been salvaged for future structural habitat elements in the reserves.</p>	<p>Ongoing.</p> <p>Woody debris placement in BGW and tree stag relocation was completed in the past years.</p> <p>Rocks are stockpiled for future use in dam rehabilitation scheduled for 2019-2020. Additional rock has been sourced and will be stockpiled for future use.</p> <p>The rock that was salvaged has been used in the Molonglo offset and the second engineered log jam at Tharwa. If possible additional rocks will be sourced for further erosion control works.</p>
35	Undertake plantings to improve connectivity and wildlife movement along Gungaderra and Sullivan's creeks, targeting in particular superb parrot movement corridors.	EPSDD	<p>Approximately 6000 plantings (tree, shrubs and plant) were undertaken over three community planting days in 2017.</p> <p>The planting locations were selected to enhance connectivity and wildlife movement. Also the species selected are used by superb parrots, both for food foraging and habitat. Planting species also included rare and threatened species such as the Button Wrinklewort.</p> <p>The plantings were also able to contribute to the rehabilitation of Sullivan's creek through erosion control and stabilization.</p> <p>Further paddock tree plantings have been undertaken along Sullivans Creek.</p> <p>The area is identified as a restoration zone for future planting.</p>	Ongoing. A full extent towards the suburb could not be achieved due to potential fire risk.
36	Undertake all bushfire management activities in line with ACT Government's Ecological Guidelines for Fuel and Fire Management Operations.	EPSDD	As required.	Ongoing.
37	The formula for funding set out in Table 5.3 over the 20 year life of the Plan will be implemented.	PIT	Upon endorsement of the Plan and approval of the class of actions permitting urban development of Gungahlin.	Ongoing.
38	Review the funding arrangements to ensure the Plan commitments are being met in the event of total expenditure variations of more than 5 per cent over the 20 year period (+/- \$1.325 million).	PIT	As part of the Plan Review Report process.	<u>See Item 17</u> : 30 December 2017, 2021, 2025, 2029, 2033.

3.6 Independent Audit

The Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment completed the first independent audit of the Gungahlin Strategic Assessment NES Plan in November 2017.

The audit found that the majority of the commitments, a total of 19 (five with observations), were compliant. A total of 13 commitments were not compliant, five of which were identified as high risk.

Areas of non-compliance resulted largely from delays in timely delivery and implementation of the commitments across government agencies. Five corrective actions were issued for the high risk items to ensure commitments are met. These related to:

1. Implementation of the Cat Containment Policy (Commitment 5)-completed 20 December 2017.
2. Review of the Taylor Stage 1 Construction and Environmental Management Plan (Commitment 11a)-completed 29 January 2018;
3. Prepare process documentation for reporting on potential breaches of commitments in the Plan (Commitment 15)-completed 29 January 2018;
4. Complete Fire Hazard Management Strategies (Commitment 28)-completed 20 February 2018; and
5. Prepare educational information for residents moving into Throsby (Commitment 30) – completed 20 December 2017.

All of the corrective actions have been completed. EPSDD is currently working with relevant entities on improvements to the strategic assessment process and recording procedures as recommended by the independent audit and the Plan Review Report.

3.6 Plan Review Report

The Plan requires a Plan Review Report (the Report) to be prepared every four years from endorsement of the Plan. The Gungahlin Plan Review Report was completed in September 2018.

The Report provides findings on actions undertaken, improvements to MNES, legislation and policy changes, and knowledge gained from June 2013 to June 2018. The Report also considers issues and challenges that have arisen and opportunities for improvements to deliver the Plan.

As this noted this is the first Report over the 20 year timeframe of the GSA. As the GSA has only just commenced and there is limited information available to comment on all commitments at this point in time. It is anticipated that as the GSA progresses and more information on the delivery of commitments becomes available and this information will be captured in future reports.

The Report concludes with a number of recommendations for improving the delivery of commitments in the future, and the ACT Government will continue to work with the Commonwealth Government to deliver these recommendations.

Financial Reporting

The majority of work during the 2018 - 2019 financial year has been undertaken by ACT Government employees as a direct allocation through the 'Protecting Threatened Species' budget initiative. This initiative has committed funding for the continued management of Throsby North, Throsby East, Kinlyside and Kenny Broadacre for MNES. Table 3 provides a comparison of the estimated expenditure for the offset sites in the Plan compared to the funding secured in the ACT Budget. An explanation of the difference in the figures is provided.

Table 3. Comparison of estimated expenditure between the Plan, the funding secured in the ACT Budget and 2018/19 expenditure

Offset Sites	Estimated expenditure in the Plan for 2018/19	Funding spent in 2018/19	Comments
Direct Offsets			
Mulligans/ Goorooyaroo offset sites (incorporating Kenny Broadacre, Throsby North and Throsby East)	\$1,113,000	\$168,674.01	<p>The difference between the figures in the Plan and the amount estimated in the plan is due to changes in land management requirements and identified cost savings in the first few years while the offsets were being established.</p> <p>The original budget included costs to undertake works that are no longer required. This included large amounts (\$800,000 over 3 years) to rehabilitate potentially contaminated land. Investigations determined that this was not needed.</p> <p>While the amount spent in the initial establishment phase is less that what was first estimated, the total costs are likely to be spread out over the years to account for the planned environmental restoration programs linked to meeting conditions improvement targets.</p> <p>The overall funding secured within the ACT Budget to manage the offsets over 20 years is however, greater than the amount in the Plan. The amount secured provides assurance that the ACT Government is committed to delivering on the commitments in the Plan.</p>

Offset Sites	Estimated expenditure in the Plan for 2018/19	Funding spent in 2018/19	Comments
Kinlyside	\$0	\$80,459.65	<p>The ACT Government has committed to retaining the rural leases and engaging the rural lessees to assist in the delivery of offset commitments.</p> <p>Both lessees have managed their rural leases for over 50 years. Over this time, they have protected the conservation values within their land, including the golden sun moth and box gum woodland community.</p> <p>The ACT Government is committed to retain both rural leases and will provide resources (funding) to the lessees and specialised contractors to undertake land management activities. This includes activities required to deliver on the commitments within the Plan and approved Habitat Improvement Plans, as well as other works to improve site condition (e.g. gully erosion abatement).</p> <p>This explains the funds spent on site over this reporting year.</p> <p>This approach is consistent with the ACT Environmental Offsets Policy and the ACT Environmental Offsets Policy Delivery Framework.</p>
Jacka, Taylor and Horse Park north	\$204,000	\$144,671.48	The associated development was not commenced until 2016. Funding was secured in the 2016-17 budget bid. The funding received and spent differs from the figure in the Plan due to changes (increased) to land management requirements.
Kenny	\$611,000	n/a	<p>The associated development has not commenced.</p> <p>No funding has yet been received from the ACT Government for the management of this offset.</p>
Other non-site specific costs -staff	\$670,000	\$17,367.50	This is for the “other” non-site specific costs associated with delivering the commitments in the Plan. It includes staff, vehicle and machinery leases,

Offset Sites	Estimated expenditure in the Plan for 2018/19	Funding spent in 2018/19	Comments
-vehicles -equipment - monitoring			monitoring. Some funding allocated to staff has been included in the research figures below.
Indirect Offsets			
Research	\$100,000	\$25,817	Research funding for 2018-2019 has been expended on extensive research into Superb Parrot breeding and habitat use and the translocation of Golden Sun Moth populations.

Financial audit

A financial audit was prepared by EPSDD Finance for expenditure in 2018-19. Summarised findings of the audit are included below. The total expenditure figures are included in Table 3 above.

Throsby	
Weeds	\$49,899.00
Fencing	\$64,632.00
Erosion control	\$11,106.33
Monitoring	\$7,000.00
Revegetation	\$36,036.68
Research	\$21,507.00
Total	\$190,181.01

Kinlyside	
Erosion	\$23,786.65
Weeds	\$18,783.00
Fencing	\$12,698.00
Revegetation	\$4,722.00
Lessee management	\$20,470.00
Total	\$80,459.65

Jacka, Taylor and Horse Park North	
Track works	\$16,400.00
Revegetation	\$14,900.00
Lessee management	\$3,614.87
Fencing	\$49,858.90
Weeds	\$59,897.71

Professional services	\$17,367.50
Research	\$4,310.00
Total	\$166,348.98

Projected 2019-20 Expenditure

Expenditure for 2019-2020 will focus on continuing to deliver the relevant management actions previously identified in the individual offset management plans.

Projected expenditure includes but is not limited to the following:

- Continue to implement erosion control along Hall’s Creek (including maintenance of existing plantings). Land management actions to be delivered in conjunction with leaseholders (Commitments 9 and 23).
- Planning and commencement of targeted box gum woodlands restoration works (Commitment 26).
- Ongoing operational programs such as invasive weed and animal control, will continue in 2018-19 (Commitments 10, 24 and 25).
- Continue to deliver on the superb parrot and golden sun moth translocation research projects (Commitment 27).
- Continue to deliver the MNES monitoring program.

Future Funding

The total amount currently secured through the ACT Budget is \$9.4M. This funding is to manage all GSA offset sites (except Kenny) over the first four years. The total amount secured for the first four years is greater than the estimated expenditure.

The fourth year of funding also includes a recurrent budget, which provides on-going funding from year five and beyond. With these funds and the expected funding to manage the Kenny offset site in the future, the ACT Government is on track to fulfil its full funding commitments as per the GSA Biodiversity Plan.

For ease of reporting against ACT Government financial systems, the “other costs” (ie staff, vehicles, equipment etc) have been attributed to individual sites.

The recurrent (on-going) funding for GSA sites is estimated at \$1.4M per annum, noting that the total amount may vary depending on annual land management and restoration requirements. The GSA offset sites are funded by two separate business cases, which also included funds to manage other PCS managed offset sites. The total amount of recurrent funds secured within these business cases totals \$3M per annum. While on-going funding will be provided to manage GSA sites, further funding will be secured in the future to manage Kenny.

Areas of Non-Compliance

The ACT notes the following areas of non-compliance with the commitments of the Plan. There are no recorded incidences of impacts on MNES that are protected by the Plan as a result of these non-compliances.

No.	Commitment	Non-Compliance matter
8	Commitment 28 Fire hazard management strategies that include specific considerations for: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• box gum woodland• golden sun moth• striped legless lizard• superb parrot	The Fire Management Strategy for Taylor 2 is the most recent submitted. A Fire Management Strategy for Taylor 3 will be prepared when the DA is approved. A Fire Management Strategy for Throsby and Taylor was completed on 20 February 2018.

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ACT Government (2016) *Offsets Register*, Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate, Canberra. Available: http://www.planning.act.gov.au/topics/design_build/da_assessment/environmental_assessment/offsets_register.

Umwelt (2013a) *Gungahlin Strategic Assessment Biodiversity Plan: Final*, prepared for ACT Economic Development Directorate and ACT Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate, Canberra (June, 2013).

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Umwelt (2013b) *Preliminary Risk Assessment, Gungahlin Strategic Assessment: Final*, prepared for ACT Economic Development Directorate and ACT Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate, Canberra (May, 2013).